

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. Substitute drawing figures are appended to this paper. The specification has been amended to improve the language.

Claims 10-28 are pending in the application. Claim 10 has been amended to better set forth the amendment being claimed. Claims 11-18 have been amended to improve the language in a non-narrowing fashion. Claims 19-28 are newly presented.

Support for new claims 19 can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 9-12. Support for new claim 20 can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 24-26. Support for new claim 21 can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 35-37. Support for new claims 22-24 can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 1-12. Support for new claims 25-27 can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 27-34. New independent claim 28 generally corresponds to claim 10 but positively recites the duct.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

The Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as missing a lead line for reference element "1" in Figure 4 and for not having brackets or dotted lines to designate a complete figure in Figures 5 and 6. The comments in the Official Action have been

considered, and the drawing figures have been appropriately amended.

**The Specification**

The specification has been objected to as containing informalities. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the specification has been amended to be free from informalities.

**The Claims**

The claims have been objected to as containing informalities. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claims have been amended to be free from informalities.

**Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 10-19 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the claims do not positively recite the ducts (now a duct). However, the duct is recited in the body of the claim and is implicitly present in the functioning device. However, new claim 28 has also been presented in which the duct is positively recited.

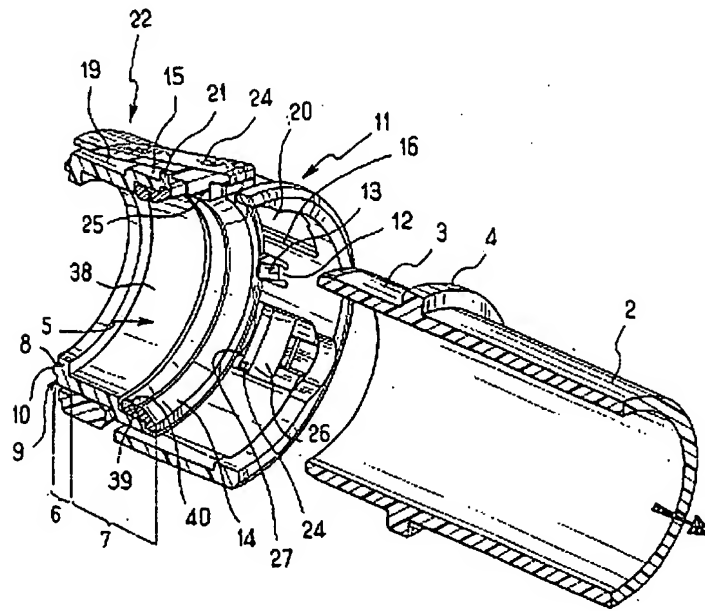
The Official Action raises issues regarding the term "associated". However, this term has been removed from the claims.

The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis. This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Rejection Over McELROY et al.**

Claims 10-18 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by McELROY et al. (U.S. Patent 5,228,729). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a quick coupling device that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 5 of the application, which is reproduced below.



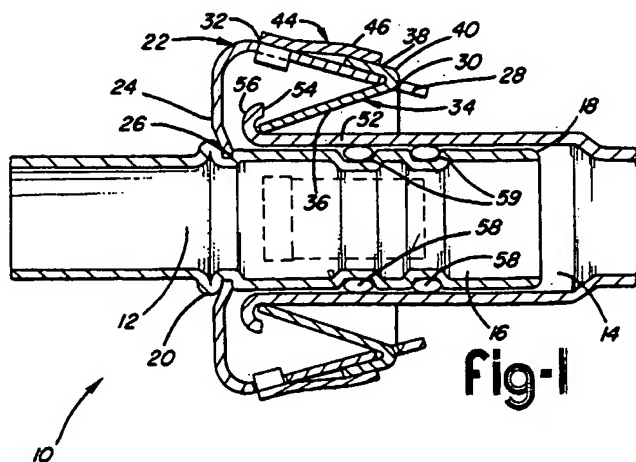
**FIG. 5**

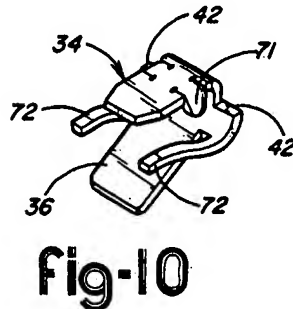
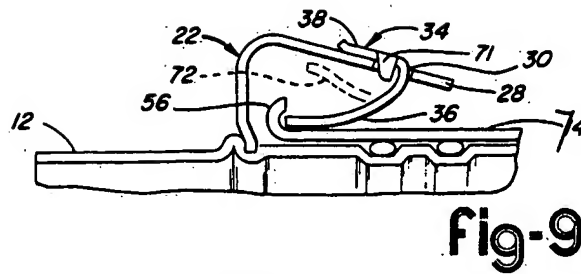
As is set forth in claim 10 of the present invention, the device includes a tubular body (5) having a connection section (7) arranged to receive in a leaktight manner at one end

(3) of a duct (2). A retaining member (22) mounted on the body possesses tabs (24) that are elastically deformable between a first state of gripping an outer bead (4) on the end of the duct (2), and a second state of releasing the bead. The retaining member is mounted on the body to turn around a central axis of the body between a free deformation position in which the tabs can deform between the first and second states, and at least one holding position in which the tabs cooperate with a surface (20, 21) that is secured to the body and that holds the tabs in one of the first and second states.

That is, the present invention sets forth a quick coupling device that has a retaining member turnable around a central axis of the body of the device. McELROY et al. do not have this feature.

McELROY et al. pertain to a quick connect coupling. The Official Action refers to Figures 1, 9 and 10 of McELROY et al., which are reproduced below.





At page 6 the Official Action asserts that the Retaining members (36) of McELROY et al. are deformable around an axis perpendicular to the central axis of the body (24).

However, in McELROY et al. the retaining members are not pivotable in a holding position in which the retaining member is maintained by a body surface either in its releasing state or it gripping state.

McELROY et al. therefore do not disclose each and every element of claim 10 of the present invention. McELROY et al. accordingly do not anticipate claim 10 of the present invention. Claims depending upon claim 10 are patentable over McELROY et al. for at least the above reasons.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 9, 2006 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to be overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure 4-6 of the drawings